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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/26/2001

James A. Powell

17674 (13201US01)

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7590 11/21/2007
Tyco Electronics Corporation
4550 New Linden Hill Road
Suite 450
Wilmington, DE 19808-2952

EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

11/21/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/963,720

Applicant(s)

POWELL ET AL.

Examiner

Edwin A. León

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2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 6/25/07.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-18, 24, 26, 30-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-18, 24, 26, 30-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration discussed in the Interview of June 25, 2007 has been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15, 18-24, 26, 30-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denovich et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,254,421) in view of Scholl, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 4,886,497). With regard to Claims 15, 26, and 30, Denovich et al. discloses a connector device (combination of both 110) comprising a first connector (first 110) including a housing (body of 110) having opposing sides (sides shown in Fig. 10) and a conductive device (124) mounted in the housing; and a second connector (second 110) including a housing (body of 110) having opposing sides (sides shown in Fig. 10) and a conductive device (124) mounted in the housing; at least one of the opposing sides (sides shown in Fig. 10) of the first connector being removably

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connected to one of the opposite sides of the second connector, whereby the first connector is separable from the second connector such that the first connector forms an individual connector unit. See Fig. 10.

Denovich et al. discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the use of ultrasonic weld to connect the first and second connectors.

Scholl, Jr. discloses the use of ultrasonic weld (Abstract, Lines 11-16) to join parts of an assembly.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Denovich et al. by using ultrasonic weld as taught in Scholl, Jr. in order to provide the connector with a breakable welding that provides an audible and tactile indication that the assembly has not being used (Abstract, Lines 11-16). The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above.

With regard to Claims 18 and 33, Denovich et al. discloses the housings being formed of a nonconductive material. See Fig. 10.

With regard to Claims 19-22, the combination of Denovich et al. and Scholl, Jr. discloses the claimed invention except for the housings formed of a polycarbonate material, a polyester material, a polypropylene material, or the first connector housing being formed of one nonconductive material and the second connector housing being formed of a second nonconductive material. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the housings of a polycarbonate material, a polyester material, a polypropylene material, or the first connector housing being formed of one nonconductive material and the second

connector housing being formed of a second nonconductive material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

With regard to Claims 23 and 31-32, Denovich et al. discloses the conductive device in each of the housings is a crimpable device adjacent to a channel (118, 116) defined in each of the housings. See Fig. 10.

With regard to Claim 24, Denovich et al. discloses the first and second connectors further including a crimping portion (126) capable of engaging the crimping device. See Fig. 10.

With regard to Claims 34, 39, and 41-42, Denovich et al. discloses a connector assembly (combination of both 110), the connector assembly comprising: a plurality of nonconductive housings (both 110) joined to one another to form a connector stick, each of the housings holding a conductive connecting device (124) and having at least one opening (116, 118) for passage of electrical cabling (180) to the conductive connecting device, wherein the plurality of joined nonconductive housings are separable from one another as the cable is spliced there to form individual connector units each having cable spliced thereto. See Fig. 10.

Denovich et al. discloses the claimed invention as shown above except for the use of ultrasonic weld to connect the first and second connectors.

Scholl, Jr. discloses the use of ultrasonic weld (Abstract, Lines 11-16) to join parts of an assembly.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Denovich et al. by using ultrasonic weld as taught in Scholl, Jr. in order to provide the connector with a breakable welding that provides an audible and tactile indication that the assembly has not being used (Abstract, Lines 11-16). The method limitations are deemed inherent and are rejected as shown above.

With regard to Claim 36, Denovich et al. discloses the housings comprising first and second portions (sides shown in Fig. 10) movable relative to one another. See Fig. 10.

With regard to Claim 37, Denovich et al. discloses each of the conductive connecting devices comprising a crimping device (126). See Fig. 10.

With regard to Claim 38, Denovich et al. discloses the housings each comprising a channel (116, 118) for receiving cabling (180), and a crimping device (126) proximate the channel. See Fig. 10.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15, 18-24, 26, 30-34, 36-39, 41 and 42 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kneusel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,910,453) disclose the use of breakable or separable ultrasonic welding.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Edwin A. Leon/
AU 2833